

## REMARKS

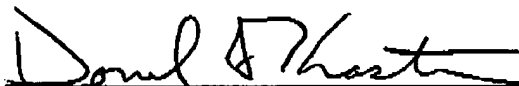
***Amendments to the Claims***

Claims 7, 10 and 13 have been cancelled. Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form, and now includes the limitations of base claim 10 and intervening claim 13.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Kasten, Reg. #45363  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
One US Bank Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Telephone: 314-552-6305  
Fax: 314-552-7305

BEST AVAILABLE COPY